

PRESS

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PRAVDA COMMENTS ON GROUNDING OF 'COSMOS-954'

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(TEXT) MOSCOW, JANUARY 28, TASS--PRAVDA WRITES TODAY: THE SPUTNIK "COSMOS-954" CARRIED A SMALL NUCLEAR POWER PLANT WHICH GENERATED ELECTRICITY FOR ONBOARD EQUIPMENT. ON JANUARY 6 THE SATELLITE STOPPED FOLLOWING COMMANDS FROM THE GROUND. ON JANUARY 24, THE "COSMOS-954" ENTERED DENSE LAYERS OF THE ATMOSPHERE IN THE NORTH OF CANADA.

ONE OF THE MAIN LAWS IN CREATING NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS IS THEIR COMPLETE SAFETY EVEN IN CASE OF A MALFUNCTION, THE NEWSPAPER POINTS OUT. THIS IS ENSURED BY THE DESIGN OF ATOMIC POWER STATIONS AND OTHER DEVICES, INCLUDING THOSE FUNCTIONING IN SPACE. A RADIOISOTOPE UNIT OF THE U.S. "TRANSIT" SATELLITE DISINTEGRATED DURING THE SATELLITE'S REENTRY IN THE ATMOSPHERE IN 1964, A LUNAR CAPSULE CONTAINING RADIO ISOTOPES BURNT DOWN DURING THE EMERGENCY RETURN OF THE "APOLLO-13" SPACECRAFT. NO TRACES OF RADIOACTIVE ISOTOPES WERE DISCOVERED IN THE ATMOSPHERE, NOR WERE THERE INDICATIONS OF ANY HAZARD FOR THE POPULATION. U.S. AND SOVIET DESIGNERS CREATE THIS SORT OF TECHNOLOGY IN SUCH A WAY THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO DISASTER IN ANY CASES.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT MET IN WASHINGTON WITH JOURNALISTS AND TOLD THEM IN DETAIL ABOUT HOW CONTACTS WERE MAINTAINED IN JANUARY BETWEEN GOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTIONS OF THE USSR AND THE USA CONCERNING THE DESTINY OF THE "COSMOS-954" SATELLITE. AT THE REQUEST OF THE U.S. SIDE, THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN THE UNITED STATES REFERRED THE NECESSARY INFORMATION.

ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI SAID, SPECIFICALLY: I WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT TWO THINGS: FIRST THAT THIS INCIDENT WHICH, TO MY MIND, IS NOTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY IN THE SPACE AGE, IS FULLY CONTROLLED SO WE BELIEVE THERE IS NO DANGER... (TASS ELLIPSES) SECOND, THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE USA, THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED COOPERATED INTENSIVELY CONCERNING THIS MATTER.

PRAVDA WRITES: "A REALISTIC APPROACH TO WHAT HAS HAPPENED HAS SHOWN IN WASHINGTON, OTTAWA AND A NUMBER OF OTHER CAPITALS. THIS IS, UNDOUBTEDLY, DUE TO THE CLIMATE OF INTERNATIONAL DETENTE. SUCH AN APPROACH IS NOT TO THE LIKING OF ALL. THERE ARE PRESS ORGANS AND PEOPLE IN THE WEST WHO TRY TO PRESENT THE MATTER IN A DIFFERENT WAY, FROM THE ANTI-SOVIET POSITIONS. USING ANY PRETEXTS, INCLUDING THE INCIDENT WITH THE "COSMOS-954", THEY WOULD LIKE TO STIR UP DISTRUST, FEAR, MUTUAL INCRIMINATIONS. BUT SUCH A POLICY IS POINTLESS."

26 JAN 1052Z WLD/HMC

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